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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Alvin L. Neeley) ArtUnit: 3652
Serial No. 09/440,149) Examiner: Underwood, D.
Filed: November 15, 1999)
For: MANHOLE COVER LIFTING) Attorney
APPARATUS AND METHOD) Ref. No.: P112554

BOX RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Certificate of Mailing (37 CFR 1.8a)

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April 15, 2002

Date

Chris Minter

Chris Minter

RESPONSE

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed this last December 14, 2001. A response was due on this March 14, 2002. A one month extension of time is hereby requested to make the present response due on April 15, 2002 (April 14, 2002 being a Sunday). A check in the amount of \$55.00 is enclosed in payment of the extension fee. It is believed that no other fee is due at this time to maintain the application in full force and effect. However, if any such fee is due, please charge this to Deposit Account No. 08-3260.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A lifting assembly arranged to lift an object which has a width dimension and is at least partially surrounded by a base surface which has a substantial horizontal alignment component, such as a manhole cover surrounded by a paved or ground surface, said assembly comprising:

a) a base support assembly comprising:

i. a beam structure which has a lengthwise axis, is adapted to be positioned above the object, and has a length dimension greater than the width dimension of the object, said beam structure having a first pivot end and a second mobile end spaced from one another

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a sufficient distance so that the beam structure can be placed over the object to be lifted, with the first and second ends engaging the base surface in load bearing relationship on opposite sides of the object to be lifted, said beam structure being the primary load carrying structure relative to the object to be lifted;

- ii. a pivot support connected to the beam structure and located at the pivot end thereof, and arranged to support the pivot end of the beam structure from the base surface and to engage the base surface in a manner to resist movement of the pivot support from a substantially stationary base surface pivot location on one side of the object to be lifted during movement of the lifting assembly;
- iii. a mobile support connected to the beam structure and located at the mobile end thereof, and arranged to support the mobile end of the beam structure from the base surface on an opposite side of the object to be lifted, said mobile support having a mobile base surface engaging portion to enable the mobile support to be moved laterally over the base surface;

b) a lifting mechanism mounted to the beam structure between the pivot support and the mobile support and comprising a lift connection to engage said object and an actuator acting through said lift connection to lift said object whereby said lifting assembly can be positioned over said object with the pivot support being on one side of said object and the mobile support being on an opposite side of said object, so that said lifting mechanism is able to raise said object, and the mobile support of said lifting assembly can be moved laterally so as to move said object about said pivot support.

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended.

In the last Office Action, it was indicated that the pending Claims were 1 and 3-21. Claims 11, 12, and 14-20 were withdrawn from consideration since these read on non-elected species. Claim 21 was allowed. Claims 1, 3-9, and